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Summary record of the 46th meeting
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Chairman: Mr. Bródi ..... (Hungary)
Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Ms. McLurg

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The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

Agenda item 135: Financing of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (A/63/536, A/63/693 and A/63/746/Add.9)

Agenda item 140: Financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (A/63/517, A/63/684 and A/63/746/Add.6)

Agenda item 143: Financing of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (A/63/588 and Corr.1, A/63/734 and A/63/746/Add.8)

1. **Ms. Vendat** (Director, Peacekeeping Financing Division), introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/536), said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $50,233,900, which included voluntary contributions from the Government of Cyprus ($16,709,966) and the Government of Greece ($6,500,000), for the maintenance of the Force. Expenditure had been $50,232,000, resulting in an unencumbered balance of $1,900, which represented near full utilization of the approved resources. The General Assembly was invited to decide how to treat the unencumbered balance of $1,900 for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, as well as other income for the period ended 30 June 2008 amounting to $1,308,400.

2. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for UNFICYP for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/693), she said that the proposed budget of $55,996,200 for 2009/10 reflected a 2.1 per cent increase compared to the funding of $54,851,100 appropriated by the General Assembly for the maintenance of the Force for 2008/09. The main causes of the variance were additional requirements resulting from the proposed establishment of two additional international posts and additional requirements for military contingents, owing to the increased cost of rations. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate the amount of $55,996,200 for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010, including $24,370,478 to be funded from voluntary contributions from the Government of Cyprus ($17,870,478) and the Government of Greece ($6,500,000), and to assess the balance of the appropriation ($31,625,722) at a monthly rate of $2,635,477, should the Security Council decide to continue the Force's mandate.

3. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/517), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $35,009,800 for the maintenance of the Mission and that expenditure had amounted to $32,777,300, leaving an unencumbered balance of $2,232,500, which represented an implementation rate of 93.6 per cent. The main causes of the variance were higher actual vacancy rates for international and national staff, as a result of high staff turnover, and reduced expenditure under air transportation and communications. The General Assembly was invited to decide how to treat the unencumbered balance of $2,232,500 for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, as well as other income for the period ended 30 June 2008 amounting to $1,327,900.

4. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for UNOMIG for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/684), she said that the proposed budget of $38,838,500 for 2009/10 reflected a 12.6 per cent increase relative to the funding of $34,484,200 appropriated by the General Assembly for the maintenance of the Mission for 2008/09. The main causes of the variance were additional resources for salaries, including post adjustment, and common staff costs for international staff, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 63/250, offset in part by the elimination of requirements for mission subsistence allowance; the proposed establishment of 20 new national General Service posts and three United Nations Volunteer positions; and the revision of national salary scales as of 1 July 2008. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate the amount of $38,838,500 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 and to assess that amount at a monthly rate of $3,236,542, should the Security Council decide to continue the Mission's mandate.

5. Introducing the performance report on the budget of the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 (A/63/588 and Corr.1), she said that the General Assembly had appropriated funding of $688,330,600 for the maintenance of the Mission for 2007/08 and that expenditure had amounted to $649,469,100, leaving an

unencumbered balance of $38,861,500, which represented an implementation rate of 94.4 per cent. The main causes of the variance were the phased repatriation of 2,469 military personnel between October 2007 and June 2008; a higher average vacancy rate for international staff; lower self-sustainment requirements under facilities and infrastructure, communications and special equipment, owing to the drawdown of military personnel; and fewer than budgeted hours flown by helicopters under air transportation. The General Assembly was invited to decide how to treat the unencumbered balance of $38,861,500 with respect to the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008, as well as other income for the period ended 30 June 2008 amounting to $15,295,600.

6. Introducing the report of the Secretary-General on the budget for UNMIL for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 (A/63/734), she said that the proposed budget of $593,488,800 for 2009/10 reflected a 1.7 per cent decrease relative to the total approved resources of $603,760,800 for the 2008/09 period. The main cause of the variance was the phased drawdown of military contingent personnel from 10,232 to 8,693. The General Assembly was invited to appropriate the amount of $593,436,000 for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 and to assess that amount at a monthly rate of $49,453,000, should the Security Council decide to continue the Mission's mandate.

7. **Ms. McLurg** (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of UNFICYP (A/63/746/Add.9), said that the Advisory Committee had been informed that, based on the terms of a new ration contract, the proposed budget for military and civilian police personnel would be reduced by $717,400. The Advisory Committee recommended against the establishment of the new posts proposed by the Secretary-General, given that the Force was a long-standing peacekeeping mission whose scope of activity and budgetary requirements had remained relatively stable. The Advisory Committee also recommended calculating fuel requirements for 2009/10 on the basis of the average fuel cost for the first three months of 2009, which would entail a decrease of $196,991 in the proposed budget. Taking into account those reductions, the Advisory Committee recommended that the General Assembly should appropriate the amount of $54,686,100 for the maintenance of the Force for the period from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

8. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of UNOMIG (A/63/746/Add.6), she said that, given the many challenges and uncertainties faced by the Mission and the Security Council's intention to outline the elements of a future United Nations presence in the region by 15 June 2009, the Advisory Committee was of the view that, should the Council decide to extend the Mission's mandate beyond 15 June 2009, the Secretary-General should be requested to submit a revised proposed budget for UNOMIG for 2009/10, reflecting the Council's decisions regarding the Mission's mandate and operations. Pending the submission of a revised budget, the Committee recommended that the level of the budget for 2009/10 should be maintained at the level of the appropriation of $34,484,200 approved for 2008/09. That recommendation in no way prejudged any position that the Advisory Committee might take on proposed staffing and non-staffing requirements for the Mission for 2009/10.

9. Introducing the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of UNMIL (A/63/746/Add.8), she said that the Advisory Committee's recommendation that fuel requirements for 2009/10 should be estimated on the basis of the average fuel cost for the period from January to March 2009 entailed a reduction of $18,638,300 in the proposed budget. Furthermore, the Advisory Committee noted that a progressive reduction in the number of flight hours required for rotary-wing aircraft had not been accompanied by a corresponding reduction in the number of rotary-wing aircraft employed by the Mission. The Advisory Committee therefore expected the Secretary-General, in implementing the budget for 2009/10, to take measures to align the number of such aircraft more closely with the number of flight hours required, and to indicate the results in the performance report.

10. **Ms. Pataca** (Angola), speaking on behalf of the Group of African States on agenda item 143, said that the Group welcomed the proposed budget for UNMIL for 2009/10, which reflected the resource requirements for that period. It was imperative that the Mission should be provided with the resources needed for it to carry out its operational work in the drawdown phase and to ensure lasting peace in Liberia.

11. The Group welcomed the proposed mission support initiatives in the areas of capacity-building, institutional development, strengthening of the rule of law and support for the Government. It commended the Mission for its efforts to ensure cost-effective delivery of training to a large number of participants and was pleased to note that, in keeping with the aims of capacity-building within Liberia, some 60 per cent of participants in the envisaged internal and external training programmes were in the national staff category. The Group agreed with the Secretary-General that quick-impact projects had played a key role in facilitating the execution of the UNMIL mandate over the years, bringing tangible benefits for the population at large as well as advancing the Liberian peace process. In view of the ongoing fragility of the situation in Liberia, particularly in the areas of rule of law and institution-building, it was particularly important to ensure that adequate resources were allocated to the implementation of such projects, in order to fill the gaps that still existed in strategic areas. Lastly, the Group trusted that the Secretariat would offer detailed explanations of the potential impact of any proposed resource reductions.

12. **Mr. Brant** (Brazil), also speaking on agenda item 143, said that his delegation supported the views expressed by the representative of Angola on behalf of the Group of African States. He stressed the importance of providing UNMIL with the necessary resources to fulfil its mandate, especially with regard to the implementation of quick-impact projects, which provided the population with tangible benefits in critical areas such as health, education, food security and the rule of law.

13. **Mr. Prokhorov** (Russian Federation), speaking on agenda item 140, said that some of the language used in the Secretary-General's report on the budget for UNOMIG for 2009/10 (A/63/684), in relation to both the title of the Mission and the assessment of the events of August 2008, needed to be adjusted. Firstly, with regard to the title, "United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia" did not reflect recent Security Council resolutions on the Georgian-Abkhaz issue. Security Council resolutions 1839 (2008) and 1866 (2009) already used an amended title, referring to "the United Nations mission". Moreover, the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations presence in the region (S/2009/254) proposed the new name of "United Nations stabilization mission". Secondly, with regard to content, some wording in the report currently before the Committee (A/63/684) failed to take account of the latest political realities in the Caucasus. For example, according to that report, one of the Mission's main tasks was to ensure the parties' compliance with the 1994 Moscow Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces, whereas in fact the Moscow Agreement was no longer in effect from an international legal standpoint, since Georgia had unilaterally withdrawn from it. New updated parameters for the security regime in the region had been proposed in the Secretary-General's more recent report (S/2009/254). Furthermore, it was fundamentally inaccurate to describe Georgia's aggressive attack against South Ossetia and Russian peacekeepers in August 2008 as "the conflict between the Republic of Georgia and the Russian Federation". He trusted that the Secretariat would take his comments into due account in its preparation of all subsequent documents on the financing of the Mission.

14. His delegation supported all the recommendations contained in the Advisory Committee's report on the financing of the Mission (A/63/746/Add.6), including the recommendation that, pending the submission of a revised budget, the level of the budget for 2009/10 should be maintained at that of the appropriation approved for 2008/09.

The meeting rose at 10.45 a.m.